

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 OPIC-03

L-03 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4457

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 6951

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, EFIN, GH

SUBJECT: MCDONNELL DOUGLAS REQUEST FOR OPIC INSURANCE FOR LEASE OF
DC-9'S AND DC-10 TO GHANA

REF: (A) OPIC MEMO TO ACCRA, 9-8-76 (NOTAL); (B) ACCRA 6800;
(C) ACCRA 4579(NOTAL); (D) STATE 151219(NOTAL); (E) ACCRA 3143

1. REF A REQUESTS PRELIMINARY EMBASSY COMMENTS ON NATURE AND PURPOSE
OF PROPOSED INVESTMENT AND PROBABLE BENEFITS TO GHANAIAN ECONOMY.

2. WE HAVE LONG BEEN ON RECORD (REFTELS) DOUBTING WHETHER GHANA
AIRWAYS (GH) CAN EFFECTIVELY OR ECONOMICALLY USE TWO DC-9'S AND A
DC-10, OR WHETHER THE CONSIDERABLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPENDITURE
(DOLS 62 MILLION) CAN BE JUSTIFIED BY PROBABLE RETURNS. GH'S
MANAGEMENT RECORD IS A DISMAL ONE, AND SHOWS NO EARLY SIGNS OF
IMPROVEMENT.

3. WE GRANT THAT LEASING, RATHER THAN BUYING, THE AIRCRAFT IS A NEW
FACTOR, PROVIDED THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF GH TERMINATING LEASE ON
RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE WITH MINIMAL PENALTY. WE HAVE LONG SAID THAT
VC-10 SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH DC-8 OR B-707-SIZED AIRCRAFT;

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FURTHER, USE OF SINGLE DC-9 ON WEST COAST AFRICA SERVICE APPARENTLY
FULLY JUSTIFIED.

4. ALL ABOVE ESSENTIALLY COMMERICAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL RISK
CONSIDERATIONS. HOWEVER, MUCH AS WE EAGER FOR PROMOTION US
EXPORTS, WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS WHETHER ACQUISITION BY GH OF THIS
MANY JETS IN GHANA'S ECONOMIC INTEREST. LINEHAN

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